

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-27 (Canceled)

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A silica glass crucible produced by a process comprising

~~forming a silica glass powder layer on a surface of a silica glass crucible; and heating and sintering the silica glass powder layer at a temperature less than the crystallization temperature of the silica glass powder layer, wherein the~~  
a silica glass powder layer is formed on the whole or a part of the surface of the crucible ; and wherein :

the silica glass powder layer is porous;

~~the silica glass powder layer is crystallized to reinforce the silica glass crucible by heating under the high temperature at the melting of the silicon raw material being charged into the crucible formed from a silica powder;~~

more than 20 weight % of the silica powder consists of silica particles each having a particle size of less than 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

20 weight % or less of the silica powder consists of silica particles each having a particle size in a range of from 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to 150  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 29 (Canceled)

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The silica glass crucible according to Claim 28, wherein

the silica glass crucible has an inside surface and an outside surface; and

the silica glass powder layer is formed in a ring configuration on the outside surface of the silica glass crucible

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The silica glass crucible according to Claim 28,

wherein

the silica glass crucible has an inside surface and an outside surface; and

the silica glass powder layer is formed in a ring configuration on the inside surface of the silica glass crucible.

Claim 32 (Canceled)

Claim 33 (New): The silica glass crucible according to Claim 28, wherein the silica glass powder layer is amorphous.

Claim 34 (New): The silica glass crucible according to Claim 33, wherein the crucible is amorphous.